



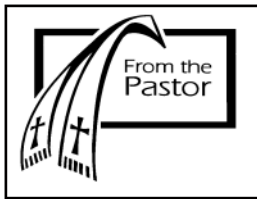
The GOOD NEWSLETTER

of
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church
Springfield, Pennsylvania

Volume 68, Number 8

September 2016

Internet Web Site: www.stmattspringfield.org



From Our Pastor

Connect
Care
eQuip
Cultivate

So much has been happening here at Saint Matthew this summer! We welcomed our new Intern, Vicar Daniel Smith, we had an exciting Vacation Bible School, and our newly reorganized Fellowship Team has held a Luau, a reception for our Vicar, and begun regular “Lemonade on the Lawn” events to help us **connect** with each other beyond just the worship service. And they say that summer is the slow time of the year!

In addition to ways for us to connect with each other, we have been able to **care** for those around us through our offering to Loaves and Fishes, our collection of school supplies for Faith Immanuel Church, gifts to the Welcome Church. The offering from the Vacation Bible School, combined with the offering received at the special worship program led by the King’s Clown Troupe came to \$475 for Loaves and Fishes!

Vacation Bible School was a wonderful way to **equip** our youngest people and their families for a life grounded in faith in Jesus. The songs and stories of God’s love and care for us still roll through my head, and I am told are still sung around the houses of those who attended (not just the children!) Adding a new staff person in Vicar Daniel has given us another leader to help us be equipped for a life of faith. As the fall is upon us we are beginning Sunday school, Confirmation classes, and adult education opportunities to help us grow deeper in our knowledge of and love for Jesus.

Many gifts have been given this year which show we are **cultivating** our spiritual generosity through our financial support of this ministry. To date we have not needed to dip into reserves to cover any ministry expenses. As you will see later in this newsletter, we also received generous gifts through members’ estate planning. The spirit of generosity has been felt throughout our congregation, as people have found ways to contribute to

the many educational and outreach programs in which we are engaged.

As we head into the fall we are looking to increase our connections within the congregation, and consider ways to connect with those in our community. We will offer more opportunities to care for those in need, and are finding better ways to include each of you in this service (we find so many people are excited to share!) We are looking for ways to expand how we equip our youth and their families for a life of faith, as we consider how to reenergize the Saint Matthew Youtherans, and by continuing the Family Ministries program. We will work on cultivating our generosity by discussing what we can share with the Church through the Forward Together in Faith Campaign, which is set to help develop ministries like the Welcome Church throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania and beyond.

I am excited about where we are going as a congregation. I am thrilled to see so many of you becoming excited as well. And I am very happy to see so many people looking to connect, care, equip and cultivate the life of faith in and through our church family. I can’t wait to see where God will lead us next, as together we are Connecting People and Changing Lives, through Jesus Christ!

Pr. Karl M. Richard

The Vicar’s View

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity! It’s like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes” (Psalm 133).

I might not express myself in quite so dramatic language (I certainly wouldn’t talk quite so much about oil and beards!), but this psalm has reminded me a lot of my last month here at Saint Matthew. Transitions can be hard, including the one into full-time ministry as a seminarian intern. But the kindness of this congregation, your welcoming and engaging natures, your genuine eagerness to speak with me and make me feel comfortable at Saint Matthew, have made this one of the most joy-filled and fulfilling transitions in my life. Saint Matthew already feels

like a family, and one that I am proud to now call myself a part of. So, thank you all for the way you have welcomed me and for the great conversations! Thank you for making me feel that Saint Matthew will be a good and pleasant place for me to spend the next year or so. I very much looking forward to getting to know you even better and to being partners in ministry with you all!

God's Blessings,
Vicar Daniel Smith

* * * * *

New Wednesday Bible Study

Maybe they're a neighbor. Maybe they're a co-worker, or your doctor, or a friend, or an in-law, or a parent at the same school your children go to. However you know them, odds are that you have met people that hold to the Jewish or Islamic faiths. We are living in times when peaceful co-existence and mutual understanding are increasingly vital. More than being just a necessity, our engagement with people of other religions and cultures can also be an opportunity for us to deepen and strengthen our relationships with the God we know in Jesus Christ. This class, which I'm calling "Points of Difference, Opportunities for Unity," will look at some of the main theological points of contention and agreement between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In the first session, I will tell a personal account of my encounters with these other religions through travel and study, as well as my own conversion to Islam in 2010. Topics in later weeks will include "Do Jews, Christians, and Muslims worship the same God?", "Who is Jesus?", and "The endtimes and the afterlife", among others. Come join us in our Wednesday Bible study to learn about other faiths and to deepen your own!

We will meet at 6:30 a.m. in the Library and noon in the Parlor beginning Wednesday, September 7.

Vicar Daniel Smith

* * * * *

Prayer Group

Beginning September 7, the Wednesday Prayer Group will meet in the Library at 1:30 p.m. following Bible Study. Prayer Group is flexible to the desires of those attending and reflects our praise, thanksgiving, and petition for concerns both personal, for others and for the world. If you are interested in a brief mid-week time of prayer of approximately 50 minutes, you are invited and welcome to attend as your schedule allows.

* * * * *

Thank You and Welcome!

As a congregation we thank Heather Markland for her faithful and creative service as the coordinator of the Family Ministries Program! This program, which focuses attention on the younger members of our congregation and their families, has had wonderful guidance over the past several years by Heather and her team. With her organizational skills and creativity as an elementary school teacher she has provided many wonderful programs for these families. As her children age beyond this group, she is stepping aside from this program, even as she continues with our Fellowship Team.

We are very excited that one of our newer members, Melissa Lavery, has agreed to take over this ministry at this time! Melissa is also a teacher, and has degrees in developmental psychology. Melissa is looking at ways in which we might be able to expand this ministry into new avenues, and we are excited to explore what this might mean. We are grateful for her willingness and enthusiasm to take on this venture!

* * * * *

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School

What a success this event was! Thanks to Julie Cirillo and the numerous volunteers who helped to organize and run this week-long event during the last week in July for 50 plus children. Our sanctuary was transformed into this year's theme, Cave Quest. The children enjoyed being together as they heard the word of God through Bible stories and related videos. They sang songs, made crafts, went to imagination station, and enjoyed snacks and games. A special closing program was held on the last day for the families of the children. Soft pretzels and lemonade were served on the front lawn. An appreciation luncheon was held for volunteers after the closing program as well. About 35 adults and youth from Saint Matthew helped to make this program run smoothly. An offering of \$275 was collected to purchase school supplies for Loaves and Fishes.

Kings Clown Troupe

On Friday, July 29, the Kings Clown Troupe from Clifton Park, New York led us in a worship service. The service was done entirely in mime and all in attendance certainly enjoyed the experience. The group consisted of 3 adults and 5 youth. They were treated to dinner before the service and several members opened up their homes to give them a place to sleep for the night. Early the next morning they were off to their next destination. May God continue to bless this group as they continue to share God's word and His love in such a creative and meaningful way. The offering for the night was designated for Loaves and Fishes to help with the purchase of school supplies. Two hundred dollars was collected.

Sunday School Teacher Meeting/Luncheon

On August 28 a Sunday School Teacher meeting and luncheon was held. Materials were distributed and business

related to the upcoming Sunday School year was discussed.

Rally Day September 11

To kick off our Sunday School program this year, all children and adults are invited to our Sunday School Kickoff in the Sanctuary on September 11, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. Children from ages 3 to high school will have the opportunity to meet their Sunday School teachers after a short worship opening that will include offering. This year we will be helping the ELCA in its campaign to battle world hunger. Activities have been planned to show the youth how important animals are in alleviating hunger. Parents may accompany their children to the Sunday School classrooms if they wish to do so. Children will be dismissed from their individual classrooms around 10:00 AM. Light snacks will be provided. At the end of Sunday School, each child will receive a bank. We are asking that the children save money in the bank and return it the first Sunday in October. All money will be donated to the ELCA for world hunger.

Installation of Sunday School Teachers

Sunday School teachers and substitutes will be installed at the 10:15 a.m. service on September 11, 2016. We look forward to seeing you!

Carol Penjuke
Christian Education Committee

* * * * *

Calling all Singers, Ringers and Instrumentalists

Yes, it is that time again to start up the fall schedule. I hope you are all refreshed by the summer break and looking forward to being together again. I admit I enjoy the summer break, but I feel so much more connected when the fall starts and the ensembles are practicing again and worshipping together as a group. Music is such an important part of our worship service, and Saint Matthew continues to be blessed with so many people sharing their talents.

Choir practice will start up again on Thursday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m. We have some new music to work on as well as some things we have done in the past. I know there are some of you out there that like to sing but for one reason or another haven't tried joining the choir. You may think you don't sing well enough or, you don't read music, or you're afraid you might be the oldest person there, or the youngest person there, or you're afraid the choir director (or the pesky altos) will pick on you, or you can't commit to every practice or service. No worries – everyone at every level at every age is welcome, and we would love to have you join us on whatever schedule works for you.

While they do not practice on a regular weekly schedule, we do have our bell ringers and our instrumental ensemble. Both groups will be providing music at various times throughout the year, especially for festival Sundays

and holidays. Again, these groups are for all ages and ability levels and are fun ways to spend some time together.

If you have questions or are interested in any of the groups, or if you are interested in starting a new group, let me hear from you!! Call, text, e-mail or otherwise track me down!

Pat McHugh
patmchugh5@verizon.net
610-952-8169 (cell)

* * * * *

Family Ministry Game Night

The first Family Ministry event of the year will be a Family Game Night! Come join us on Friday, September 23, from 7 to 8 p.m., in Elbert Hall. Games will be available; however, feel free to bring your favorite game from home to share in the fun. Light refreshments will be available. Please, RSVP to Melissa Lavery by September 19. All are welcome!

* * * * *

Cultivating Generosity

We have been blessed again by the foresight and generosity of our members. In the past month we have received a large gift from the estate of Dorothy Patterson, and a second distribution from the estate of Jim and Alice Kerchner. These long time, faithful members of Saint Matthew saw everything they had as a gift from God. During their lives they planned to return to the Lord a portion of what God had provided to them by making a gift to the Church in their estate planning. Their spirit of generosity is now able to continue even beyond their time here in the “kingdom of this world.”

Because of the vision and commitment of these two families, as well as that of Tom and Helen Owens and Bob and Barbara Bowlby, Saint Matthew has been blessed beyond our ability to imagine. We have, through their gifts, been able to replenish nearly all of the money we needed to borrow from our Endowment Fund to cover the cost of our recent Restoring, Rebuilding, Renewing Building Project, and replenish the buffer we had in our Undesignated Bequests and Memorials Fund, which helps us fund ministry beyond our regular expenses.

If you would like to learn how you can make a lasting gift to the work of Jesus and his Church, please speak with any member of our Endowment Committee – Jim Snyder, Tom Savage, Gina Milana, or Pastor Richard. Generosity can be cultivated, and investments in the future of the Church can make a tremendous difference in proclaiming the news of the God who has always been so generous to us through Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

Financial Update

	June 2016	Year to Date
Income	\$ 39,091	\$261,967
Expenses	<u>37,731</u>	<u>254,283</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 1,360	\$ 7,684

It is very gratifying to see the financial response of the members of Saint Matthew. With the coming of our new Intern and our refocusing our efforts for ministry, giving has been strong through the first half of this year. One note of reminder is that while giving has been strong, the expenses of the new staff person have just begun. We cannot rest on a small bump in receipts and back off on our support. We also need to be sure we are all supporting the work Jesus gives us to do, and not just relying on the generosity of others.

Thank you all for the ways in which you have been cultivating the spiritual gift of generosity!

Forward Together in Faith

Imagine our congregation is not alone, but part of a network of more than 150 faith communities and tens of thousands of followers of Christ, journeying together to share stories, celebrate success, heal communities, and change lives. It's a holy vision, but it's not ours. It's God's. This vision has emerged as the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod listened to hundreds of leaders and learned *our dreams* for transforming our church. During this process, three things came clear: People in our Synod want to move *forward*, experimenting with new ways of living out the old, old story. We like traveling *together*, learning from and supporting each other. And we must journey in *faith*, bathed in prayer and our grace-filled identity as Lutherans. To bring this vision to life SEPA has created the *Forward Together in Faith* campaign. Over the coming weeks, you will hear more about the four pillars of this campaign: 1) *equipping* leaders, 2) *innovating* faith community, 3) *communicating* the Gospel story, and 4) *networking* our people. These emphases cross-pollinate and flow together into a new vision for our common ministry as Synod: a renewed culture of creativity, service and deepening faith.

Through this campaign Bishop Burkat and the leadership of the Synod is hoping to raise \$2.5 million for ministry efforts in each of these four areas. The resources will not be for the operating expenses of the Synod, like rent, utilities or administration. The funds will be used to do the work of ministry, the building up of the body of Christ. Projects like Pr. Violet Little's work at the Welcome Church which cannot fund themselves, will be among the types of projects we will accomplish together, as will helping existing congregations develop and implement better communications strategies and local innovative programs to attract people to Jesus Christ.

Each congregation is being asked to support this effort, as are leaders and members of the congregations

throughout the Synod. Our council has been discussing what we might be able to offer as the congregation of Saint Matthew. There will be a congregational meeting in October to have a discussion with you about how we can support this vital campaign. In the meantime, there will be inserts in the bulletin and sharing in worship to let you know how this will impact our communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ as we move Forward Together in Faith.

Ronald McDonald Quilting Group

The Ronald McDonald Quilting Group will resume its monthly meetings on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor. Anyone interested in learning about our group and our projects is invited to join us at this time. Future meetings will be on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. as scheduling permits.

Children's Corner

Dear Children,

"All heaven will praise your miracles, Lord; many angels will praise your faithfulness. For who in all of heaven can compare with the Lord? What mightiest angel is anything like the Lord? The highest angelic powers stand in awe of God. He is far more awesome than those who surround his throne" Psalm: 89:5-7

Several years ago, our children gave me a wonderful book of Bible Prayers and each day I get messages of inspiration--many come from the book of Psalms. As I read the above passage about angels, I started to think of these wonderful messengers (angels) that God often sends to guide and protect us. Over the years, I have collected angels--some made of paper, pipe cleaners, scraps of wood and metal, fabric, wires; and I even have one made out of a stone-like substance from the Vatican (from our grandchildren). Now read the above passage a second time--notice that angels come below God in the hierarchy--God comes first and foremost and angels are below. Many people feel that these heaven-sent little messengers guide our lives and often protect us. I could fill several pages with events telling wonderful stories about angels sending me in the right direction, keeping me from harm, giving me unexpected JOY, and totaling filling my life with pleasure. But I must never forget that God is the one sending these lovely beings to his children. Did you ever hear someone say, "Oh, you're such an angel"--perhaps after you have performed a special act of kindness? Do you think maybe you might "be an angel" to someone? Can you help more at church, at home, do a favor for a classmate, smile and pay someone a compliment, forgive a person who might be sad after a disagreement, make a get well card for someone who is sick, just to name a few? God in His mercy loves us, guides us, sends us many blessings--all we have to do is ask AND, so many times we don't even need to ask because God always knows what is best for us.

Dear Parents:

In the winter, children often make snow angels, why not make some angels from construction paper--decorate with pipe cleaners, sparkles, crayons ribbon, etc. Perhaps you could print a little job on each angel and then set a goal of using an angel each day/week to help someone. You might also try to find angels in the Bible--who did they visit and what message did they bring? Have fun!!!

Sylvia Yost

* * * * *

Social Ministry

All of our members hope that everyone in our congregation experienced some fun and relaxation over the summer. As we begin to get back into our regular routines, we would like to again invite any of you who might be interested in learning more about the Social Ministry Committee to contact either Rick Link or myself. We meet about 6 times a year, **usually** on the first Monday of the month.

Also, we want to thank all of you who again so generously donated all of the school supplies for the children of Faith Immanuel Lutheran Church in East Lansdowne. Your gifts went a long way in helping the children have new supplies to start their school year.

We continue to support the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry and Rick Link also heads a group that goes to the pantry once a month to pack boxes of food for their clients. If you are willing to help with this effort, even on a trial basis, please contact Rick.

Cheryl Morrell

* * * * *

Silver Springs-Martin Luther School Event

Planning is underway for the annual *Chefs for Silver Springs* benefit dinner on Friday, November 4. Proceeds of the evening support the programs of Silver Springs-Martin Luther School, a Lutheran Social Ministry Organization providing special education, nurturing, and healing services for vulnerable children. *Chefs 2016* will include a delicious dinner presented by an acclaimed local chef, and silent and live auctions with terrific items. Can you help us secure donations to the auction? We are hoping for:

- Tickets to sporting events
- Stays at shore houses
- Gift certificates to local restaurants
- Tickets to cultural events

For questions or to donate, please contact Lynn Unipan at lunipan@silver-springs.org or 610-825-4440, extension 206. You can read more about this fun benefit dinner at www.bidpal.net/chefs2016.

* * * * *

Women of the ELCA

Praise the Lord, O my soul, I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. from Psalm 46

I hope everyone has enjoyed these hot days of summer as we look forward to cooler, more invigorating weather. As we start fall with the renewing of our activities, won't you join your fellow sisters in Christ on one or all of our activities.

- Sept. 10 LWR Quilting—10:30 a.m.—Parish Ed. Bldg.
- Sept. 14 Board Meeting—9:30 a.m.—Library
- Sept. 21 R. McDonald Quilting—10:00 a.m.—Parlor
- Sept. 27 Sarah Circle—7:30 p.m.—Parish Ed. Bldg.
- Sept. 28 Esther Circle—10:00 a.m.—Parlor

This September we will collect socks for the homeless as part of the Welcome Church.

Our congregation has been so faithful in supporting those in need. Jesus said, "When you have done for the least of these you have done for me."

* * * * *

Men's Breakfast

The September Men's Breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 17. The place is to be determined and will be announced in the Sunday bulletins. It's a great way to start the day!

* * * * *

First Day of School

Surprised at my early arrival, Mom asked me "What are you doing home already?" "They let us out." I answered.

It was my first day of school . . . First Grade! Mom had walked with me to register earlier in the day, and here I was—I had walked back home again. "That was only recess!" she said. "You're supposed to stay until later!" I looked at her and said, "I'm not going back. There's too many kids there!"

Wrong thing to say! My Mom was furious. "We talked about this before. You have to go to school!" she said with emphasis. "I'm not going to!" I replied, "There's too many kids there!" Oh boy, I don't know where those words came from. I had never been stubborn to Mom before. Out came the yardstick, and I ran back up the street. "You get back to school, young man, or you'll get this on your backside!" Mom was serious, and so back to school I went.

As I walked in tears along the familiar street, a kind neighbor lady saw me and offered words of comfort and gave me a cookie. I was so sad that my Mom got mad at me. The neighbor lady understood my confusion. "It's

so much to get used to, at first, when you go to school.” she said. “It gets a lot better, you’ll see.” “Thank you ma’am.” I answered and continued on my way.

It was a little after recess when I got back to class, but nothing was said. I think the teacher thought I was using the bathroom and so I sat down quietly at my desk.

Soon, with acceptance of the routine, faces became familiar and by then I was a friend to these new kids. My teacher was a kind person and taught us many new and interesting subjects. She had decorated the classroom with posters and pictures and letters of the alphabet. It was all stimulating to my inquisitive young mind.

When the beginning of Second Grade came along, a year later, I was an old hand and welcomed the next step in formal education. Apparently my confidence and rapid progress was noticed by the new teacher and I soon found myself moved into Third Grade! The only subject that I needed some help in was Math and my new teacher asked a class member, who became my friend, to give me some instruction during a quiet period. I was familiar with addition and subtraction, but multiplication was a new concept. Little did I know how critical Mathematics would be for me in the future.

Each new subject fascinated me. I think it was the sense of challenge at that time which I relished. The unfamiliar was my challenge, and it thrilled me to reach into the unknown.

At birth we are each given a clean slate on which to sketch our character and so embroider our lives early on. We learn from these sketches how much we are loved and held precious not only by our family, but also by Whom we are created. That great gift of unity with all of life we should cherish always.

May peace be unto all of us.

Tony Webb

First Thursday Friends

First Thursday Friends will gather on Thursday, September 1, at 11:30 a.m. at Big Fish Grill, 961 Baltimore Pike, Glen Mills, PA 19342. For more information contact John Stefl.

October Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the October newsletter are due in the church office by **12:00 noon on Thursday, September 15.**

Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School

September has rolled around very quickly and I would like to welcome all our families back to Saint Matthew Christian Nursery School. School starts Monday, September 12; and the staff and I await the arrival of both our new and familiar faces. I would like to thank the Nursery School Advisory Board, Pastor Karl Richard and Janice Gardner for all of their support. Also, Ted Hidell is quite a friendly and familiar face to our staff, the children and their families; and I would like to thank him for everything he has done to help with the start up of our school. Also, thank you to Joe Regan for all of his assistance keeping up with our building needs, and Bill Penjoke for all of his work with our Payroll service. Thank you also to Jim Snyder, our Treasurer, for all of our financial needs. It is our pleasure to serve the children of our community. If you have a child age three to five and would like to register them at Saint Matthew, please call our office at 610-543-5589.

Linda M. Maylie, Director

Monthly Mailbag



Dear Linda Shipley and Women of Saint Matthew,

Thank you for providing the 18 personal hygiene bags for our male and female immigrant workers here in Chester County. These are extremely vital to our “newer” community members that move into the area—a tangible way of letting them know that they are not alone—that there is someone who cares about their needs as they begin to settle in. Thank you for your dedicated time and effort in supporting us.

Respectfully,
Lorraine E. Martinez, Director
Chester County Migrant Ministry

Dear Pastor Richard and Saint Matthew Congregation,

Quintin, Evelyn and myself would like to thank you for a beautiful service for Evelyn’s baptism. We are beyond thrilled to be members of such a wonderful church. Thank you for always being so welcoming!

Sincerely,
Lindsay, Quintin, Dom and
Evelyn Stotts

Dear Pastor Karl,

I want to thank you and the ladies for your recent visit to Lima Estates. It was wonderful sharing communion with you and the others. I hope you will return again.

Love,
Arlene DePugh

Dear Pastor Richard,

Thank you very much for coming to Lima Estates to serve communion to the members of Saint Matthew who live here at Lima Estates and are unable to attend church.

It was particularly pleasant to have Frankie, Joan, Dotty, and Janice to assist you and anyone who needed assistance.

Sincerely,
Helen McHenry

Dear Saint Matthew Lutheran Church,

Greetings from Lutheran World Relief! We're so thankful for your partnership, and for your energy and enthusiasm for this ministry. We're excited to report that your donations since last fall have been distributed to multiple countries providing much needed comfort to tens of thousands of adults and children.

A technical glitch this fall caused these updates not to be sent monthly. We're back on track now and thank you for your understanding. You may already have spotted in your online Tracker record that your Mission Quilts went to India.

LWR's partner in India is the Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), a national non-profit and service arm of 24 local churches that has walked with impoverished communities—providing tools and resources to help people break out of the crippling cycle of poverty as well as services during emergency response—for 65 years. CASA will receive 45,000 Mission Quilts that will be distributed to hospitals, orphanages, schools and homes for the elderly which serve the poorest citizens of India. The Quilts will provide much needed bedding, allowing institutions to use limited resources for other necessities. In addition to something warm to sleep under, the beautiful, bright colors and handmade quality of your Quilts will be a tangible expression of God's love and care for each person who receives one. For individuals who feel that society has forgotten them, this is a precious reminder, and a reason to hope.

Continued blessings on your ministry.

Melanie W. Gibbons
Quilt & Kit Ministry Manager
Lutheran World Relief

Dear Church Members,

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and concern for baby Daniel Schuler. He was born June 28 and came home July 5 and he is doing well.

Thank You and God Bless,
McLaughlin and Schuler families

Dear Friends of Saint Matthew,

I can't thank you enough for all the kindness and love you have all shown me. It has been uplifting to know that people were praying for my mom, expressing concern

to me and just caring as her end of life approached. I continue to feel your caring spirit now that she has passed.

Saint Matthew has always been a place that makes me feel good and even in the saddest of times still does! You are all truly special people.

Love and God Bless,
Beth, Kevin, Maddy and Aidan
and the family of Betty Jane
Camagna

Dear Saint Matthew Family,

This year's VBS Cave Quest was a huge success! We had over fifty children in our program! Of course the reason our VBS is the best is all the Saint Matthew people who donate their time and energy. We had over thirty adults helping the children enjoy VBS! Also a special thank you to all who donated the snacks! They were all enjoyed! We truly have the best here at Saint Matthew!

Thank you again,
Julie Cirillo

Dear Friends in Esther Circle and Sarah Circle,

You are terrific friends to the children of Silver Springs—Martin Luther School! Thank you for the sweet treats and adorable stuffed bunnies for the boys and girls in the Residential Treatment Program. They thoroughly enjoyed the tasty candy and the cute, new bunny friends are sure to bring comfort and lots of fun to the children.

We are very grateful for your ongoing support of our ministry. You make it possible for Silver Springs to bring hope and healing to the children we serve! On behalf of the children, thank you!

Sincerely,
Amanda Bryant
Development Associate
Silver Springs-Martin Luther School

Dear Bishop and Pastor Davenport,

I am writing to share with you an extraordinary act of ongoing kindness from one of our amazing congregations. About a year ago I spoke to a group sponsored by the women of Saint Matthew in Springfield. While there, they asked what might be useful for our congregation at The Welcome Church (making no assumptions, but asking!) and so I offered a list of various items. Since my visit, the women have organized through the congregation a monthly donation of items on the list. This month, reading glasses were included—a blessing for so many!

This faithful group from Saint Matthew has made such an impact on us all year that I could not help but lift them up in thanksgiving. God is good!

Pastor Violet Little
The Welcome Church

Dear Pastor Richard:

On behalf of the client families and volunteers of Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, we want to thank everyone for their great generosity towards the Pantry. The free will donation taken up after the recent clown service totaling \$200.00 that was designated for the food pantry was so thoughtful, and needed.

This will help us provide new backpacks filled with appropriate supplies for the children of our clients from grades K to 12.

Saint Matthew's continued support is deeply appreciated for helping us meet our clients' needs throughout the year. Thank you for seeing their need and being so generous in helping them. What you have done has had a profound effect upon our clients' lives.

Your thoughtfulness and generosity for our client families means a great deal. May all be blessed as you have continued to bless us. We are deeply grateful.

Your sister in Christ,
Joanne F. Castagna, Director

* * * * *

Vital Statistics

Death: **Charlotte Simon**
Died: August 3, 2016
Funeral: August 12, 2016

65th Wedding Anniversary: September 29, 2016
Bob and Muriel Wagner

* * * * *

Worship Responsibilities

Altar Guild **Coordinator: Paulette Stark**
Sept. 4 Barbara Kinsey, Diane Frattini
Sept. 11 Paulette Stark, Beth Camagna
Sept. 18 Chris DiSanto, Morrow Ziff
Sept. 25 Marie Miller, Maureen McCleary

Worship Assistants **Coordinator: John Kampmeyer**
Sept. 4 8:00 a.m. Vicar Daniel Smith
10:15 a.m. Vicar Daniel Smith
Sept. 11 8:00 a.m. Joanne Castagna
10:15 a.m. Joe Link
Sept. 18 8:00 a.m. Kathie Morgan
10:15 a.m. (No assistant needed)
Sept. 25 8:00 a.m. Frankie Savage
10:15 a.m. Jeff Wesley

Acolytes **Coordinator: Barbara McClintock**
Sept. 4 8:00 a.m. Matthew Johnston
10:15 a.m. Briana Burdette
Nora Larkin
Sept. 11 8:00 a.m. Tyler Bennett
10:15 a.m. Andrea Brassell
Rebecca Engberg
Crucifer: Matt DiSanto

Sept. 18 8:00 a.m. Ethan Scott
10:15 a.m. Quinn Martin
Ethan Kraft
Sept. 25 8:00 a.m. Cole Bennett
10:15 a.m. Madison Wesley
Jack Psenicska
Crucifer: Michael Psenicska

Communion Servers **Coordinator: Joan Krauter**
Sept. 4 8:00 a.m. Steve and Cheryl Morrell
10:15 a.m. Abigail Richard, Joe Link
Sept. 11 8:00 a.m. Nancy Regan, Bill Penjoke
10:15 a.m. Vicar Daniel Smith, Bea Toomey
Sept. 18 8:00 a.m. Michael and Lisa Umbenhauer
10:15 a.m. Gail Hendrickson,
Meredith Harris, Dan Lazaro
Sept. 25 8:00 a.m. Barb Kinsey, Vicar Daniel Smith
10:15 a.m. Tony Webb, Vicar Daniel Smith

Lectors **Coordinator: Jeff Wesley**
Sept. 4 10:15 a.m. Jeff Wesley
Sept. 11 10:15 a.m. Britten Winters
Sept. 18 10:15 a.m. Vicar Daniel Smith
Sept. 25 10:15 a.m. Steve Bashore

Sunday Nursery **Coordinator: Janice Gardner**
Sept. 4 10:15 a.m. Mike and Melissa Lavery
Sept. 11 10:15 a.m. Sue and Brian Barber
Sept. 18 10:15 a.m. Gary Pflieger, Kathy Kinder
Sept. 25 10:15 a.m. Kristen and Ivan Plachuta

Greeters **Coordinator: Paulette Stark**
Sept. 4 8:00 a.m. Chris and Kristen Rohrer
10:15 a.m. Rick and Joelle Link
Sept. 11 8:00 a.m. Nancy Regan, Paulette Stark
10:15 a.m. Carole Centrella, Carol Mueller
Sept. 18 8:00 a.m. Dee and Doug Bratz
10:15 a.m. Dorothy D'Arcy, Paula Toland
Sept. 25 8:00 a.m. Diane Frattini, Barbara Kinsey
10:15 a.m. Steve and Cheryl Morrell

* * * * *